



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address : COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

NC

SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/134,897	08/17/98	TANAKA	T 0039-6348-25

022850 MM91/0430
OBLON SPIVAK MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT
FOURTH FLOOR
1755 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON VA 22202

EXAMINER	
TRAN, A	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2824	12

DATE MAILED: 04/30/01

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

1. ☒ The communication filed 02/20/01 is informal/non-responsive for the reason(s) checked below and should be corrected.
APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THE DATE OF THIS LETTER OR UNTIL THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE SET IN THE LAST OFFICE ACTION (WHICHEVER IS LONGER) WITHIN WHICH TO CORRECT THE INFORMALITY.

- a. ☐ The amendment to claim(s) _____, filed _____, fails to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.121 and is accordingly held to be non-responsive. A supplemental paper correcting the informal portions and complying with the rule is required.
- b. ☐ The paper is unsigned. A duplicate paper or ratification, properly signed, is required.
- c. ☐ The paper is signed by _____, who is not of record. A ratification or a new power of attorney with a ratification, or a duplicate paper signed by a person of record, is required.
- d. ☐ The communication is presented on paper which will not provide a permanent copy. A permanent copy, or a request that a permanent copy be made by the Office at applicant's expense, is required, see M.P.E.P. 714.07.
- e. ☒ Other SEE ATTACHED

2. ☐ In accordance with applicant's request, THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE FROM THE OFFICE ACTION DATED _____ IS EXTENDED TO RUN _____ MONTH(S).
No further extension will be granted unless approved by the Commissioner. 37 C.F.R. 1.136 (b)

3. ☐ Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119 which papers have been made of record in the file.

4. ☐ Other

Art Unit: 2824

The reply filed on February 20, 2001 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):

Applicant fails to completely address the indefiniteness rejections raised in said Office action of Paper No. 5, at page 7 to page 10. For example, in claim 120, line 12, the term "a program circuit" was held to be indefinite and unclear. By merely purging the word "program" from said term does not serve to overcome the rejection. In fact, leaving out said word "program" makes the term even more indefinite. There is nothing wrong with the term "a program circuit" in and of itself. Nevertheless it is difficult to correlate into the specification to ascertain with a reasonable degree of certainty what is actually being claimed. See 37 CFR 1.111.

Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given a TIME PERIOD of **ONE (1) MONTH** or **THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).


Art Unit: 2824

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 2800, Group 2810 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2810 via the Fax Center. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (October 19, 1988). The Fax Center number is (703) 308-7722 or (703) 308-7724.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-3495.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Andrew Q. Tran
April 26, 2001



ANDREW Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER